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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **SENATOR GREGG SUPPORTS EXPANSION OF NATO ALLIANCE**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today supported Senate ratification of the expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to include Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. The Senate, which approved the expansion by a vote of 96-0, must give its advice and consent before the United States can enter into any treaty with another nation negotiated by a U.S. President.

Senator Gregg stated, "For more than a decade now, people of nations living behind the Iron Curtain have experienced the rewards of their struggle for freedom. The end of the Cold War under President Reagan and President Bush began a chain reaction that continues with today's Senate vote. It is a reaction that continues to establish democracies and extend basic human freedoms across Eastern Europe to those who lived in oppressive nations stifling their rights to participate in their own government.

"While the nations of NATO joined to form a military alliance, it also pledged to further the ideals of democracy and free markets in its member nations. Twenty years ago, this day would have been unthinkable. Today the Senate has voiced its strong support for these seven nations to join an alliance that will help their citizens and their government embrace and undertake the necessary steps to ensure their people enjoy the basic freedoms our nation has championed since its founding."

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